



Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &
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COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS "GREEN DOT" EPIDEMIC SPREADING ACROSS ALASKA

A green dot epidemic is overtaking Alaska and no one can stop its spread.

"Unlike most epidemics, the spread of thousands of green dots across the state is a positive response to an exciting call-to-action against domestic violence and sexual assault," said Lauree Morton, Executive Director of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. "We have been moving our statewide efforts from public awareness to individual and community action."

In April, the Council challenged communities receiving training in its newest statewide initiative to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking – an initiative called 'Green Dot Alaska' - to hold events focusing on actions to prevent violence, Morton said.

"We challenged each community to match the number of incidences of violence reported in the Alaska Victimization Survey that the Council and the University of Alaska Anchorage conduct, with the same number of individual and community actions to stand up against violence and the attitudes that underlay it," Morton said. "A green dot was put on the map every time anyone helped pull a friend out of a high risk situation, had a conversation with a friend or community member about healthy dating, or made some choice to make their community safer," she said.

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“The responses and actions reported to the Council have been astounding,” Morton said.

Morton and Council Chair Richard Irwin, along with special guests and representatives of communities participating in Green Dot Alaska, will announce specific results of their efforts at a press conference planned for 10:30-11:15 a.m., Monday, May 5 at the BP Energy Center, 900 E. Benson Blvd., in Anchorage. The media event coincides with a “Green Dot Alaska” train-the-trainers session the Council is hosting at the same location.

“Anchorage has done everything from holding a Green Dot Launch Party at Humpy’s Great Alaskan Ale House where 325 people attended, to training bar staff, to using Facebook and other social media to reach out,” said Melissa Emmal, Deputy Director at AWAIC in Anchorage. “We can’t wait to share the results.”

“Among many other activities in Klawock, the Prince of Wales Green Dot Team proposed resolutions that were passed by the City Councils of Klawock, Craig and Hydaburg declaring their cities Green Dot Communities,” said Katie Goodale, Executive Director of HOPE in Craig.

“We did everything from pass out flyers at the Camai Dance Festival to putting information in grocery bags, to presenting at the 12th Annual Yukegtaaraat Celebration and tribal gatherings,” said Zienna Blackwell, Nurse Manager at the Bethel Public Health Center. “We think we may have even surpassed our goal.”

Jessica Lawmaster of Homer’s Haven House said her team members moved an eight-foot-tall wooden red dot around the community, which they covered with green dots as community members reported actions taken.

“The LeeShore Center spearheaded Green Dot training and outreach efforts throughout Kenai that impacted not only our community, but the entire Peninsula,” said Barbara Waters, Training Coordinator at The LeeShore Center. “We are thrilled that our community efforts exceeded our own hopes and expectations.”

“We look forward to reporting all the exciting community and statewide results on May 5 and to sharing specific actions that took place that were really inspiring,” said Morton. “More importantly, we hope the success of the efforts to launch Green Dot Alaska will inspire greater action throughout the state and help create lasting changes in our communities’ actions against and attitudes towards violence.”

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Note to Media: Photo opportunities and opportunities for individual interviews with participants will be available immediately after the press conference on May 5 at the BP Energy Center.